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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

24 November 1953

2003

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

ATTENTION: [] and CWH

SUBJECT: Sen. Hickenlooper's Statement on Guatemala

1. Upon completion of a tour in Central America, Senator Hickenlooper issued a statement which was published in the Washington Post and The Evening Star. This statement summarized the Senator's impressions that there was a serious anti-U.S. trend in Central America generally. The Senator pointed out in particular that "Communist encroachment in Guatemala represented a very serious trend that required some U.S. action." (Clippings from the two above-mentioned papers were transmitted to [] office this morning; DD/P was advised by telephone about the statements.)

2. At the morning staff meeting, at CWH's office, I suggested that cables go out to American stations inviting their attention to Sen. Hickenlooper's statement for local exploitation. (This suggestion was based on paragraph (f), page 7 of the General Plan, dated 11 Sept. '53, which states: "Psywar activities based in other Latin American countries but targeted against Guatemala will be stepped up forthwith through the exploitation of exile groups and internal anti-Communist organizations presently engaged in active operations.") By the same token, it is suggested that certain selected stations elsewhere in the world might be alerted and endeavor to highlight the Hickenlooper statement through their various outlets as part of routine information concerning worldwide Communist aggression and subversion (e.g., []), a.s.)

3. The Hickenlooper statement could certainly be well used by military mission personnel in connection with exploitation of same outlined in DD/P's memos to DDCI and DCI, dated 19 and 20 November '53. In response to queries from Guatemalan military representatives, U.S. mission members might well state: "...that it is too bad a certain well-known and powerful U.S. Senator came away from a visit to

Guatemala firmly

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Guatemala firmly convinced of Communist domination of that country resulting in strong anti-U.S. policies." It is suggested that [] might insure that this is used in the briefing of the chiefs or military missions as an example of the type of innuendo to be fed to their Guatemalan opposite numbers.

HANS V. TOFTE
Chief, PP/Ops

C-PP/Ops:HVT:mgd

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